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THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Philosophical Society will celebrate, at Philadelphia, from April 17 to 20, the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. The program is as follows:

Tuesday, April 17.—8 P.M.: Meeting for reception of delegates and of addresses.

Wednesday, April 18.—10 A.M. and 2 P.M.: General meeting for presentation of papers on subjects of science. 8 P.M.: Addresses—"Franklin's Researches in Electricity," by Edward L. Nichols, Ph.D.; "Modern Theories of Electricity and their relation to the Franklinian Theory," by Ernest Rutherford, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Thursday, April 19.—11 A.M.: Conferring of honorary degrees by the University of Pennsylvania. 3 P.M.: Ceremonies at the grave of Franklin. 9 P.M.: General reception.

Friday, April 20.—11 A.M.: Addresses on Franklin as—"Citizen and Philanthropist," by Horace Howard Furness, Litt.D.; "Printer and Philosopher," by Charles William Eliot, LL.D.; "Statesman and Diplomatist," by Joseph Hodges Choate, LL.D., D.C.L. 7 P.M.: Banquet.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. EWALD HERING, professor of physiology at Leipzig, has been made a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg.

IT is proposed to invite Mr. John Sargent to paint a portrait of President James B. Angell, to be placed in the Michigan Union Club House, shortly to be erected. The portrait will be a gift from the faculty, alumni and students of the university.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS, superintendent of the Department of Technology of the City and Guilds of London Institute, has been elected member of parliament from London University, defeating by a small majority Sir Michael Foster, professor of physiology at Cambridge from 1883 to 1903.

BARON GUERNE has been elected president of the Paris Geographical Society.

DR. W. SCHEIBNER, professor of mathematics at Leipzig, celebrated, on January 8, his eightieth birthday.

THERE was an error made in a recent number of *SCIENCE* in regard to the presidency of the Geological Society of America. The officers of the society for the ensuing year are as follows:

President—Israel C. Russell, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Vice-Presidents—W. M. Davis, Harvard University; E. A. Smith, University, Ala.

Secretary—H. L. Fairchild, University of Rochester.

Treasurer—I. C. White, Morgantown, W. Va.

Editor—J. Stanley-Brown, New York City.

Librarian—H. P. Cushing, Western Reserve University.

Councilors—H. M. Ami, Canadian Geological Survey; J. M. Clarke, Albany, N. Y.; J. F. Kemp, Columbia University; A. C. Lane, Lansing, Mich.; G. P. Merrill, U. S. National Museum; David White, Washington, D. C.

LEAVE of absence for next year has been granted to Professor F. P. Whitman, of the department of physics of Western Reserve University.

A LETTER has been received at Stanford University from Dr. D. H. Campbell, written just as he was leaving Rangoon, Burmah, for Mandalay. He was to sail shortly from there for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradenya, Ceylon.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, who set out for Central Africa last September to study the Pygmies, has entered the jungles as appears from a letter mailed on December 17, at Leopoldville, which is 1,200 miles inland from the east coast.

MR. WALTER WELLMAN has signed a contract with M. Godard, of Paris, for the construction of an airship, in which he will try to reach the north pole. It will weigh 750 pounds and have three motors, respectively of 50, 25 and 5 horsepower.

THE Duke of Abruzzi (Prince Amadeo of Savoy-Aosta), a cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, has almost completed arrangements for a voyage of exploration into the heart of Africa. The duke, who will start early in the spring, has been assured that the British and French government officials in Africa will assist him in every possible manner.